

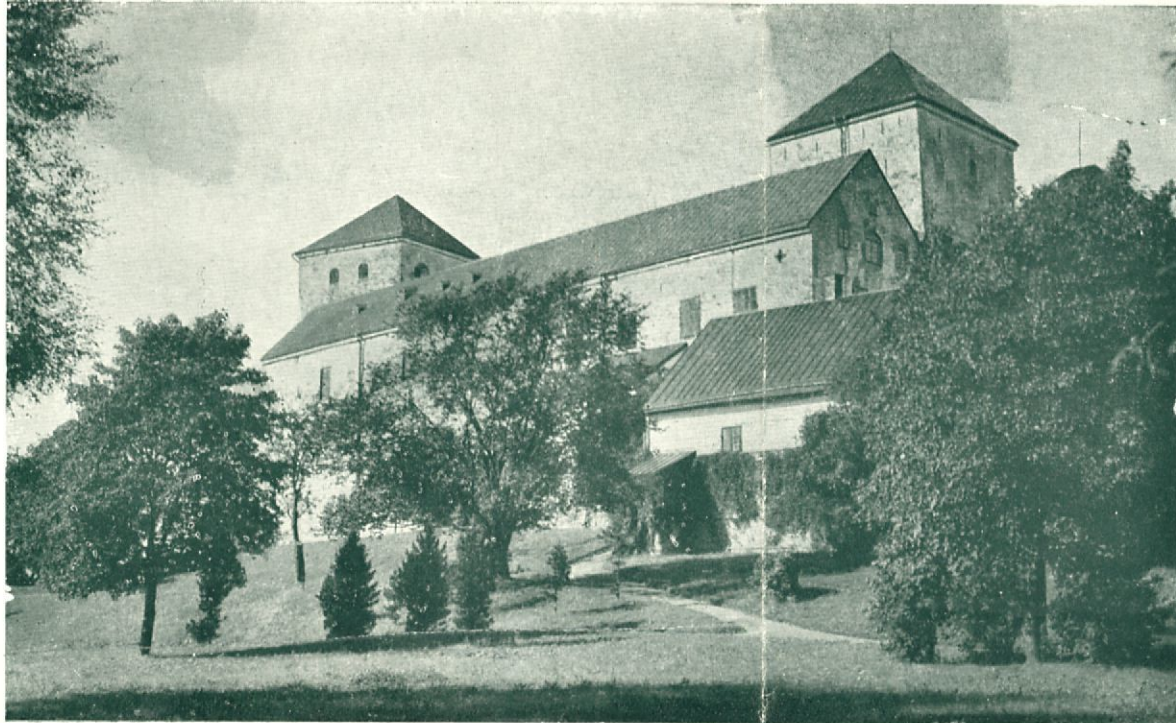


*Cathedral.*

# TURKU ÅBO

THE FORMER CAPITAL  
OF FINLAND

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*Castle.*

The English tourist will find nowhere in Finland so many memories in the history of Finland and Sweden as in Turku (Åbo), the old city by the Aura river, and in the surrounding rural districts. All through the centuries there have always been frequent and important communications between Turku (Åbo) and Stockholm, which have now developed into a daily steamship service. The journey between the two cities can also be made now in 1 1/2 hrs by the »Most Beautiful Flying Route of the North».

Turku (Åbo) was in the earliest times a commercial centre. The Finnish name of the city has this meaning. The oldest part was situated 5 km from the mouth of the river Aura at Koroinen, where the western and eastern traders met each other, struck bargains, bought the products of the country and offered their own wares.

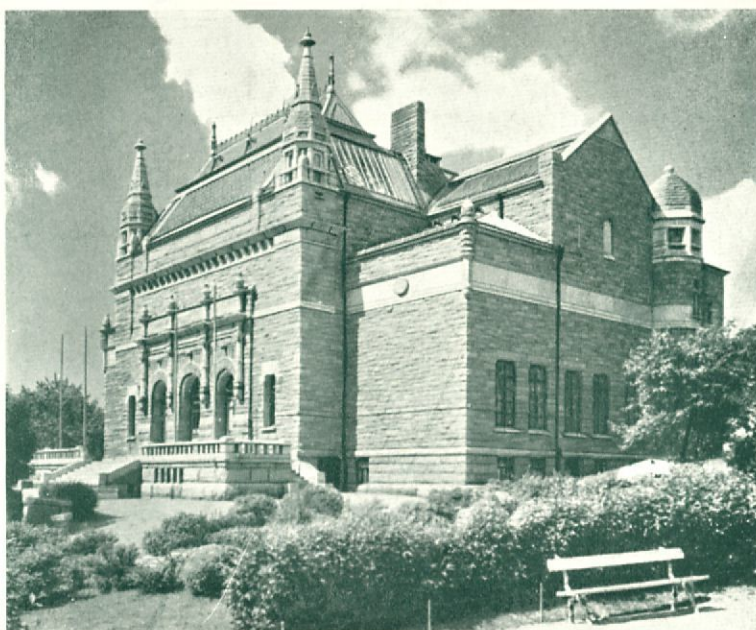
Gradually Turku (Åbo) developed into the capital,

both in the ecclesiastical and the administrative sense. At the beginning of the 13th century the town at Koroinen was probably moved nearer to the river mouth.



*Aura-river.*





*Museum of Arts.*

About 1229 the building of the cathedral was begun on Unikankare (the hill of the dream).

The inauguration of the cathedral and the moving of the see to the new place took place in 1290, but the building continued all through the following centuries. Although the cathedral as we see it now, is the result of



*University.*



*Municipal library.*

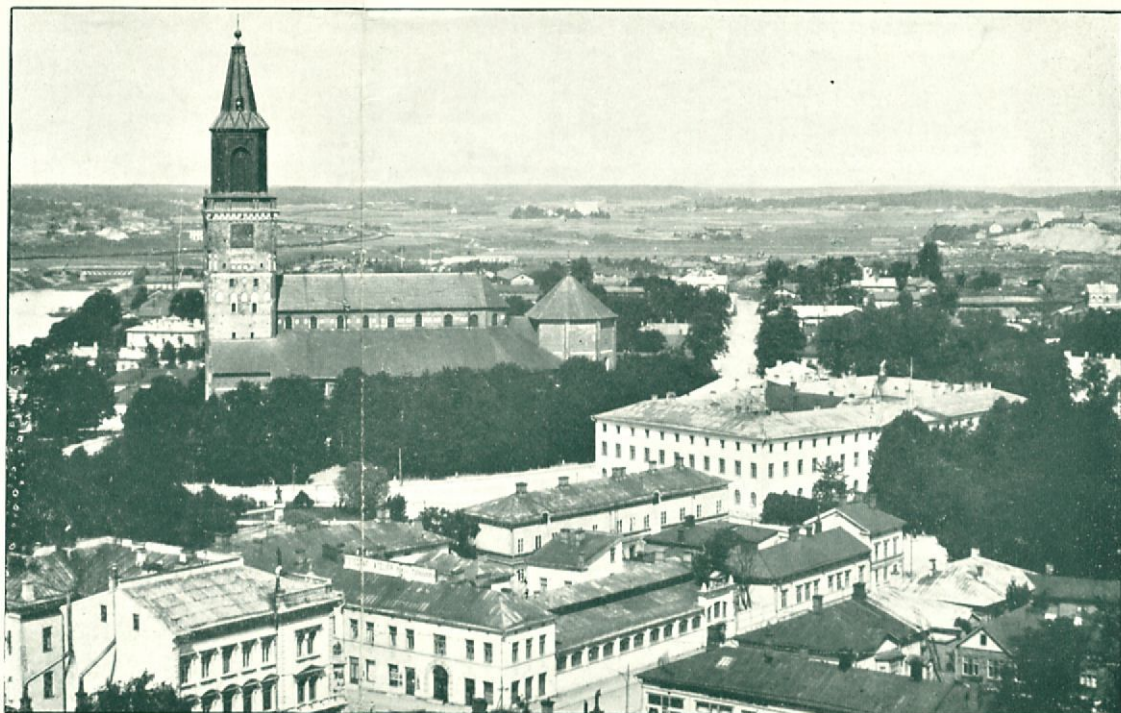
many centuries of art, nevertheless it appears as a perfect harmonious whole. Since the restoration of the church, which was accomplished in 1929 has this National Cathedral of Finland regained its medieval beauty and is now admired as one of the most interesting architectural memorials of the North.

The cathedral itself is really a monument of the great Catholic Bishops of Finland. The cathedral is also connected with such glorious names as Hemming, Magnus I, Magnus II Tavast and Magnus III Stiernkors, all of them having contributed to the building and embellishment of the church.



*Railway-station.*





*Old Centre  
with Cathedral.*

Beneath the high vaults of the cathedral there are numerous memories, which are common to both Finland and Sweden. In this Pantheon of Finland Karin Månsdotter, whose romantic and tragic life story raised sympathy on both sides of the Gulf of Bothnia, has received



*Aura-street.*

her last restingplace. Here is the Finnish warrior Evert Horn buried, who taught the great king Gustavus Adolphus the art of war. Here are also buried in the cathedral many heroes of the thirty-years war 1618—48, such as the »snowplough» of Gustavus Adolphus Åke Tott and the leaders of the Finnish cavalry Torsten Stålhandske.

At the end of the 13th century the building of the castle of Turku (Åbo) was begun at the mouth of the Aura river. Members of the royal Family of the Folkungar were the first to reside here. Later the castle became the residence of other remarkable governors of the country.

Most parts of the so called old castle were built before the end of the Middle Ages, but the new castle in the front yard was not erected before the time of Gustavus Wasa and Johan III in the 16th century. Neither death nor war spared the castle. A magnificent court life has reigned





*River-mouth, harbour  
and castle.*

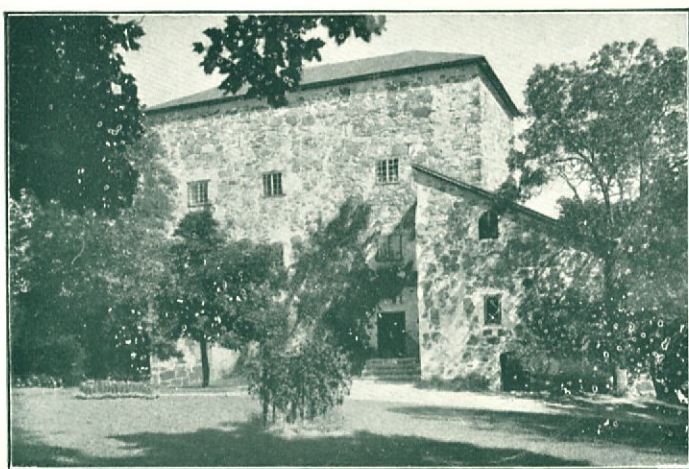
within its walls especially during the time that Duke Johan and his duchess wielded the sceptre at the house of Turku (Åbo). Such a court had never been seen in Finland before, splendid balls with theatre performances, hunting-parties, boating excursions into the archipelago etc; but the tale of the Finnish Dukedom did not last long. On the 12th of August 1563 the castle was conquered by the troops of Erik XIV and the ducal highnesses were taken prisoners to Sweden. Soon the rolls had changed again, the dethroned Erik was kept prisoner at the castle of Turku (Åbo) by his brother Johan III.

In 1614 when Gustavus Adolphus resided at the castle, a terrible fire broke out, which destroyed most of the furniture in the old castle. Among later events which took place in the castle, can be mentioned the fact that the Court of Law held its first session in the new part of the castle 1623, and that it again passed through glorious



*Market-place*

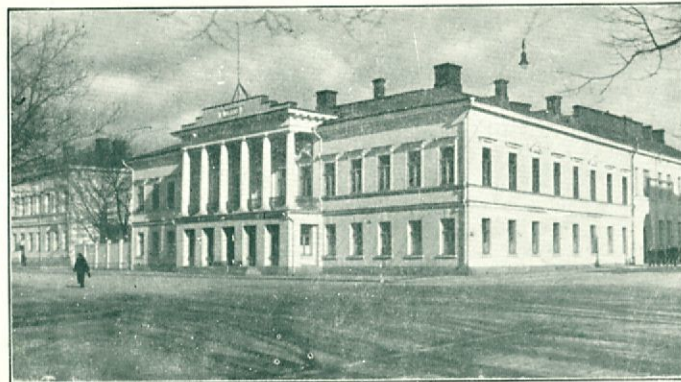




*Castle of Quidja.*

days, during the years 1637—40 and 1648—51, when Count Per Brahe as Governor General of Finland lived at the castle. Later the castle was used partly as a prison and partly as a store-house. Since 1881 the Historical Museum of Turku (Åbo) has gradually made use of the whole of the new part. The museum is in its way a unique sight in the North.

In 1249, the first Dominican Monastery of Finland appeared in Turku (Åbo) and in the same century the cathedral-school. The first university of Finland was



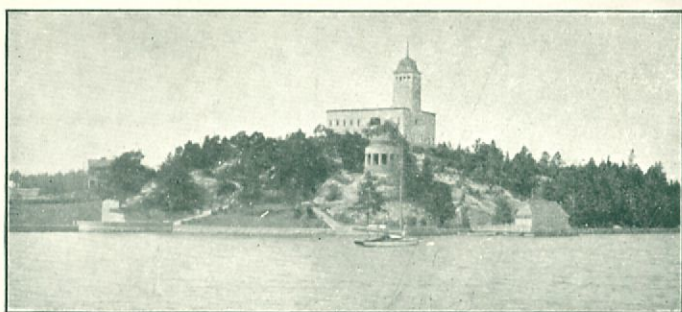
*Academy.*

founded here in 1640. After the big fire 1827, when most parts of the town were reduced to ashes, the university was moved to Helsingfors. At the same time as Finland became independent, Turku (Åbo) became a university town, even a place of two universities of which »Turun Yliopisto» (University of Turku) is Finnish and »Åbo Akademi» (Academy of Åbo) Swedish. Turku (Åbo) is also the see for the Finnish Archbishop. Turku (Åbo) is a centre in the oldest and most thriving district of the country, the old dukedom Finland-Proprietary. The harbour can be used during the severest of winters for this reason. Turku (Åbo) is the real entrance

*The Naantali-bridge.*







*Presidents summer-residence Kultaranta.*

ceport to Finland. The natural and cultural districts of this part of Finland, in which there are a great number of Medieval Churches and old estates, make it an attractive part of the country. The archipelago of Turku (Åbo) offers a beautiful scenery of the highest type.

As the central bathing and country place of the archipelago, the old convent town Naantali (Nådendal), north of Turku (Åbo) is already well known. The Birgittinconvent, a daughter convent of Vadstena, which was built in »Vallis Gratiae» in 1445, has been of great importance in the cultural life of the country. In the shelter of the later cloister the oldest known author of Finland, the prior Jöns Budde (1462—91), was living. Only the church now remains of the convent. A fine bridge connects Naantali with Luonnonmaa island, where the President of the Finnish Republic has his beautiful summer-residence Kultaranta.

( Dr. A. Viljanti )



*Naantali (Nådendal).*